

Bio-Blog | November 2019

Keeping all RBX Group Stakeholders Informed

Note from the MD

With two months of the new season completed we are able to see the results of all the planning and preparation that is done before the season.

The SIT programme continues to produce fantastic production and release results, while the first round of SPLAT FCM applications are well under way.

The impact of the drought in certain areas is a massive challenge for the industry and that includes us. Opportunities for SPLAT application with new customers and in other areas will be the focus over the next months into 2020. Cheers Rob

Birthdays in November

Craig Chambers, Carel Du Plessis,
Nathan Fransman, Jolene Jantjies,
Johan Laubscher, Lumka Mdoana,
Rachel Mouton, Ethan Nel
Brenda Nell, Alister Ruiters,
Leana Swartz, Gerhardt Van Bosch



SIT Available in New Area

Since November 2017 X-SIT has consistently met or exceeded the difficult target of rearing and delivering 2 000 sterile and healthy False Codling Moths (FCM) per hectare over approximately 18 000 hectares of agriculture in the Northern, Western and Eastern Cape.

The rearing of over 50 million FCM a week for 44 weeks of each year is a challenge that no other organisation in the world has got right. X-SIT, however, has a documented and managed process that everyone in the South African FCM SIT programme can be extremely proud of.

One opportunity that the above allows is the possibility to expand our coverage. With this in mind a new office has been opened in the Breede River Valley in the Western Cape. This office is situated at Zandvliet Wine Estate in Ashton with Dano Erasmus responsible for running



the operations with two monitoring and release personnel. The Breede River Valley is one of the largest fruit and wine producing valleys.

In the first year of presence in this valley we will be servicing farms as per the table below with all releases done by quad bikes.

This move has allowed us to increase our hectares serviced to 18 600 and results from this year will indicate what is possible in the future.

Area	Fruit Fly Monitoring (Ha)	Non-SIT FCM Monitoring (Ha)	SIT Hectares (Ha)
Ashton	144	4	162
Bonnievale	12	0	65
Montagu	75	0	67
Robertson	259	38	210
Total	490	42	504